



Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

Advanced Systems & Concepts

SUCCESS STORY

Marine Corps Buys More FCT Training Rounds for Grenade Launchers

The Marine Corps recently purchased \$61 million more in training rounds for its Mk19 grenade launcher. These German-developed rounds, now produced in the U.S., were successfully evaluated by AS&C's Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT) program.



MK19 Grenade Launcher

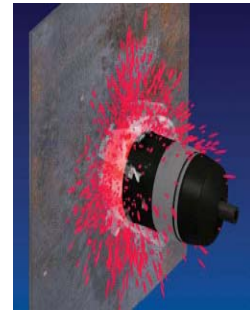
The Mk 19 grenade launcher is a valued weapon in U.S. operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. To ensure proficiency with a weapon, the Marine Corps requires about 400,000 training rounds annually. However, the previous training round, the M918, produced impacts that were hard to make out at distances. Also, the round's materials were not environmentally friendly and the round resulted in a relatively high number of duds, which were expensive to recover.



MK281 training rounds...



fired by MK19 grenade launcher...and noticeable impact



In 2002, AS&C's FCT program evaluated the German-developed MK281 training cartridge. The round's impact produces a red/orange flash caused by a powder that leaves no energetic material on ranges. It can be seen out to more than 1,200 meters, making it excellent for training in air-ground fire coordination. In addition, the MK281 is a non-dud producing round.

To date, the Marine Corps' MK281 purchases total \$133 million, and its contract provides options to order up to 65 million annually through 2011. The elimination of unexploded ordnance recovering alone provides an estimated savings of more than \$20 million annually. The round is now made in Stafford, VA.

For more information on the FCT program, visit www.acq.osd.mil/cto.